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R.I.'s craft-art at its best

The Providence Journal-Bulletin

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The Providence Journal

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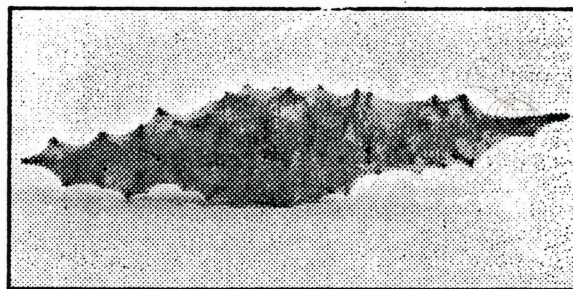
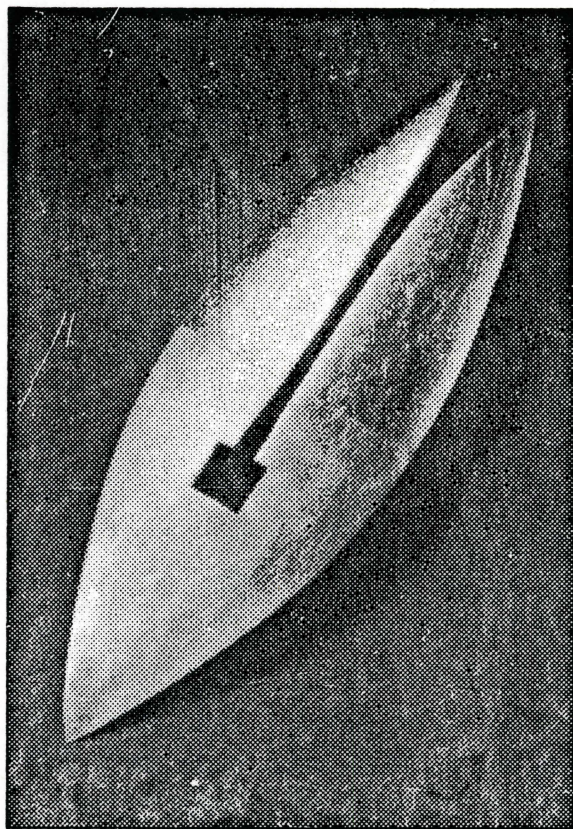
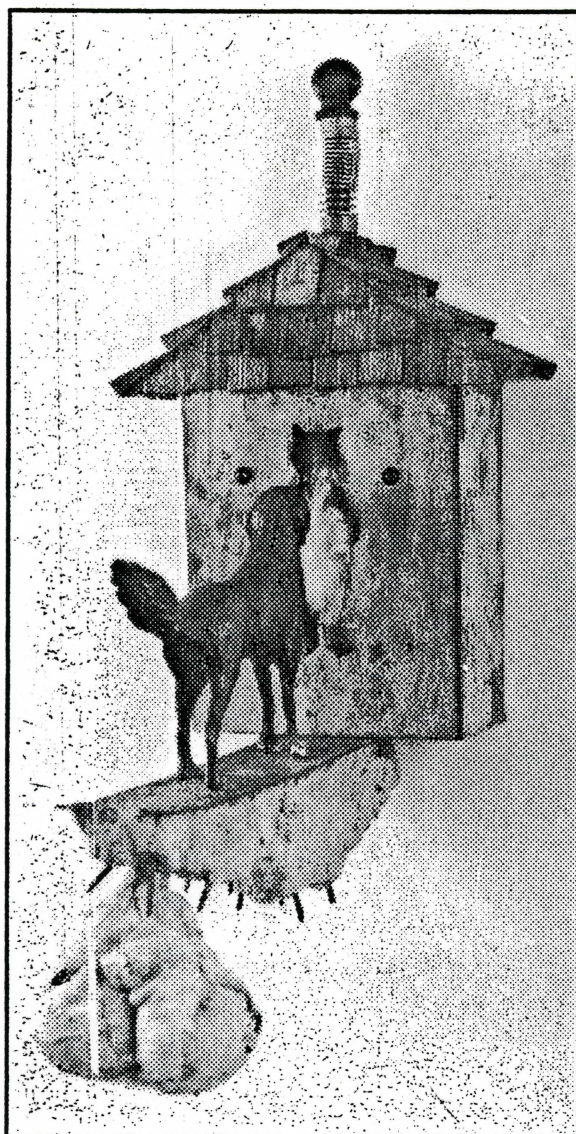
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ART



TOP NOTCH: Susan Clausen's "Cathouse," above left, is part of AS220's talent-laden survey of R.I. crafts. With Didi Suydam's silver brooch, above right, and Maureen Kelman's "Viscera Series, No. 11."

R.I.'s craft-art at its best

By **BILL VAN SICLEN**
Journal-Bulletin Arts Writer

Connoisseurs of fine art and crafts will want to hustle down to AS220 this weekend. Starting at noon today and continuing through Sunday, the alternative performance space and art gallery at 71 Richmond St. in downtown Providence is hosting a talent-laden survey of the local crafts scene.

Called "Rhode Island Objects," the show features jewelry, furniture, textiles, glassworks and ceramics by 25 of the state's top craft-artists and designers. Contributors include ceramic sculptors Patricia Camet and Lisa Tully Dibble, jewelry designers Gail Ahlers and Sara Samoloff and glass-masters Ed McIlvane and Liz Pannel.

The show also features works by glassmaker Sara Young, sculptor Peter Diepenbrock and furniture-maker Keith Crowder — three talented Ocean State artists who were invited to last year's "Young Americans" exhibition at the American Craft Museum in New York City.

AS220 artistic director Umberto Crenca says that plans for the show have been simmering for a long time. "Rhode Island has a very active, very high-powered crafts community, but there aren't that many places where they can show their work. We've been wanting to do something to change that for a long time. Now we're finally doing it."

The catalyst for the exhibition is a visit to the Providence area by members of the Collectors Circle, a group of prominent craft-art collectors associated with the American Craft Museum and the American Craft Council. The collectors were given a preview of the show last night, and will spend today and tomorrow visiting artist's studios.

"Rhode Island Objects" is sponsored by AS220 with help from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Weinberg Glass, Michael's Catering and Major Electric. Exhibition hours are noon to 8 p.m. today and 10 to 6 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday. For more information call 831-9327.